

Like many other young people, foster kids need the guidance and support of a caring adult that will last a lifetime. It's our job to make that happen. One way is to transition a child out of the system. We should make sure that when a child leaves foster care, they have a connection with someone, perhaps a lost sibling or some other relative that can be a source of love and support for them. Nurturing doesn't stop at 18, and if it continues, the odds for that foster kid doing well rise dramatically.

We should also provide a significant support system for these children after they become 18. The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program was partly designed to fill this need. But additional supports are needed to provide these young people with skills and resources they need to become successful adults. It's time for Congress to follow suit and ensure that when a child leaves foster care they have an opportunity to prosper as an adult.

I thank Congressman LEWIS for offering this important resolution, and urge my colleagues to support it and to work with us to strengthen our Nation's foster care system, so that young people who age out of the system are not thrown out of it but instead have the same opportunities that other kids have.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time. I urge bipartisan support.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1208.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING PRISONERS OF WAR FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 986) recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 986

Whereas recent world events have brought Americans closer together, while reinvo-

rating our patriotism, reminding us of our precious liberties and freedoms, and giving us a greater appreciation for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who defend our homeland every day;

Whereas the honor and valor of past and present members of the United States Armed Forces inspire many young people to serve their country;

Whereas participation by the United States Armed Forces in combat operations in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict resulted in more than 700 American military personnel being taken prisoner by enemy forces;

Whereas American military personnel who were taken prisoner were held in numerous prisoner of war facilities, the most notorious of which was Hoa Lo Prison in downtown Hanoi, Vietnam, which was dubbed by prisoners held there as the "Hanoi Hilton";

Whereas on January 23, 1973, the United States and North Vietnam jointly announced the terms of a cease-fire agreement, which included the release of prisoners of war;

Whereas the return of the American prisoners of war to the United States and to their families and comrades was designated Operation Homecoming;

Whereas on January 27, 1973, the first group of American prisoners of war were released at airfields near Hanoi and Loc Ninh, and the last Operation Homecoming repatriation took place on April 1, 1973;

Whereas many American military personnel who were taken prisoner as a result of combat in Southeast Asia have not returned to their loved ones and their fate remains unknown;

Whereas American military personnel who were prisoners of war in Southeast Asia were routinely subjected to brutal mistreatment, including beatings, torture, starvation, and denial of medical attention and outside information, and were frequently isolated from each other and prohibited from communicating with one another;

Whereas the prisoners, at great personal risk, nevertheless devised a means to communicate with each other through a code transmitted by tapping on cell walls;

Whereas the prisoners held in the Hanoi Hilton included then-Major Samuel R. Johnson, United States Air Force, now a member of Congress from the 3rd Congressional District of Texas, who was shot down on April 16, 1966, while flying his 25th mission over North Vietnam;

Whereas Samuel R. Johnson spent more than half of his time as a prisoner in solitary confinement, and conducted himself with such valor as to be labeled by the enemy as a die-hard resister, and, notwithstanding the tremendous suffering inflicted upon him, demonstrated an unflinching devotion to duty, honor, and country;

Whereas during Samuel R. Johnson's military career, he was awarded 2 Silver Stars, 3 Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, 2 Purple Hearts, 4 Air Medals, and 5 Outstanding Unit awards;

Whereas Samuel R. Johnson retired from active duty in 1979 in the grade of colonel, and personifies the verse in Isaiah 40:31, "They shall mount with wings as eagles";

Whereas the American military personnel who were prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict truly represent the best of America;

Whereas the 35th anniversary of Operation Homecoming begins on February 12, 2008, and ends on April 1, 2008;

Whereas the world acknowledges that the words inscribed by an American prisoner of war in a Hanoi Hilton cell, "Freedom has a taste to those who fight and die for it that

the protected will never know", are bitterly true and eternally appreciated; and

Whereas the Nation owes a debt of gratitude to these patriots and their families for their courage, heroism, and exemplary service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest gratitude for, and calls upon all Americans to reflect upon and to show their gratitude for, the courage and sacrifice of the brave members of the United States Armed Forces, including Samuel R. Johnson of Texas, who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict;

(2) urges States and localities to honor the courage and sacrifice of those prisoners of war with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

(3) acting on behalf of all Americans, will not forget the 1,729 members of the United States Armed Forces and the 34 United States citizens who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict and will continue to press for a full accounting of all of these members; and

(4) honors all of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have fought and died in the defense of freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 986 which recognizes members of the Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict, and calls for a full accounting of the 1,729 members who still remain unaccounted for from that conflict.

"Never leave a comrade behind" is the motto of our Armed Forces. However, one of the regrettable results of war is the possibility of being forced to leave behind missing personnel or prisoners of war.

At the conclusion of the Vietnam War, 2,646 members of the Armed Forces were considered prisoners of war or were declared missing in action. While many servicemembers were returned, 1,729 of our soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines remain unaccounted for to this very day.

During the course of the Vietnam War, as many as 700 American military personnel were held by the enemy. One of the infamous prison facilities in Vietnam was referred to as the "Hanoi Hilton." Located in downtown Hanoi, the prison held American servicemembers including then Lieutenant Commander JOHN MCCAIN, now

Senator MCCAIN, and another of our esteemed colleagues, former Major SAMUEL R. JOHNSON. SAM JOHNSON was shot down April 16, 1966, as he flew his 25th Air Force mission over Vietnam.

Bravery and passion filled the hearts of our servicemembers in Vietnam who willingly gave their life and liberty to protect the rights that Americans hold dear. We honor the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in defense of our Nation, and to those who were prisoners of war as they epitomize the very best of America.

For nearly 7 years, Mr. JOHNSON and 700 servicemembers endured beatings, torture tactics, starvation, denial of medical attention and denial of contact to the outside world. January 27, 1973, marked the beginning of Operation Homecoming, the mission to end the brutal mistreatment of American troops following the cease-fire agreement between the United States and North Vietnam. Operation Homecoming concluded on April 1, 1973, when the last of 591 prisoners of war were released. However, it is clear that much work remains to be done in finding the 1,729 troops who did not return home.

Since 1985, the Vietnamese Government has been working with the United States to help return our servicemembers back to their families, and we appreciate their efforts, and ask them to renew their efforts to help us bring these Americans home.

On behalf of the American people, our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks go to the prisoners of war from Vietnam and other conflicts and to their families.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join the gentlelady from San Diego, my seat mate, Mrs. DAVIS, in this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the Bible tells us, greater love hath no man than he who lays down his life for a friend. Close behind are those who have served America in war, been captured, been held for long periods of time incommunicado sometimes, from their own colleagues in the particular prison or internment camp, and certainly from their loved ones back in the United States. Those who have to endure in this case, as our POWs did in Vietnam, beatings, brutality, harsh interrogations; and yet those Americans have, in most cases, come out of that furnace of incarceration strengthened.

Indeed, as the gentlelady has mentioned, Pete Peterson, JOHN MCCAIN and our own SAM JOHNSON, who serves with us today, are examples of Americans who endured great difficulty and great hardship, and yet were strengthened and were inspired and had a certain energy that propelled them into this body, and in other cases into the other body, into the U.S. Senate, and they became national leaders.

Mr. Speaker, James Michener wrote in his book, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, when the subject of that book, the hero, the guy who had flown off to hit those bridges again and again didn't return because he'd been shot down, in the book, the commander of that aircraft carrier walks out on the deck after it's clear that this pilot's not going to return, and he reflects and asks himself the question, where does America get such men? People who will join the military, who will get into these high performance aircraft, in the case of a Navy pilot, fly off a carrier, which is a little postage stamp floating at sea, go through enemy air defenses and in a very dangerous situation, hit the target and then try to find that small floating postage stamp once again to recover.

And of course the counterparts to those Navy pilots are Air Force pilots and Marine pilots who fly off that tarmac, and, in the case of North Vietnam, encountered new technology, Russian-made surface-to-air missiles which were extremely deadly, and knowing that if they didn't get back out to the ocean, where they could at least, if their plane was hit, where they could at least parachute into the ocean, they had a high likelihood of being captured. And again and again and again they got into those aircraft and undertook those missions.

SAM JOHNSON was one of those guys and was shot down on his 25th mission. As the gentlelady said, he earned in his service to our Nation two Silver Stars, three Legions of Merit, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with the V device. But he earned something more than that, and that's the gratitude of every American, certainly every Member of this body, and in a way he's very symbolic of this incredible group of heroes known as the American POWs from Vietnam, because he's a lot like a lot of the others that I've met, Mr. Speaker, and I know you've met a lot of them too. Self-effacing, modest, great character, and continuing to serve this country.

So I think it's absolutely appropriate that on this 35th anniversary of Operation Homecoming that we honor everyone who served as an American prisoner of war, and especially honor the one who serves today in the House of Representatives, Mr. SAM JOHNSON.

I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. I would yield to the Republican leader, Mr. BOEHNER, the gentleman from Ohio, as much time as he might consume.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to have introduced this legislation which marks the 35th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, and honors all Americans held prisoner of war in Vietnam.

On February 12, 1973, the first wave of the longest held POWs from Vietnam

left Hanoi for their first taste of freedom, dubbed Operation Homecoming. Our colleague and my friend SAM JOHNSON was one of the men who flew out of Hanoi after nearly 7 years in captivity.

For me and any other American watching, Sam's return, and the return of all those heroes serving in Vietnam, was a bittersweet moment. Yet it was a moment that we must never forget because of what they did to defend the cause of freedom.

□ 1130

This resolution is just one more way for Congress and for our Nation to thank those who were held prisoner of war in Vietnam. And on a personal note, it gives me a chance to thank Sam, once again, for his service and his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, America owes our Vietnam POWs and all of those who serve a debt of gratitude, and it is only fitting that Congress today should recognize their heroic sacrifices today and every day.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY).

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure on the floor today because it's all about priorities. And what that means for me is I need to remember on a daily basis that if it weren't for all of the men and women who served in the United States military through the years, I wouldn't be able to go around bragging, as I often do, about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on earth.

Freedom isn't free. We have paid a tremendous price for it. And I try not to let even a single day pass by without remembering with deepest gratitude all of those who, like my own brother, Bill, made the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam. And I need to remember people like my friend and colleague, SAM JOHNSON, who went to a far-off place, put his life on the line for us, endured torture on behalf of all citizens of the United States of America, but thankfully came back home and rendered outstanding service to his community and to his country.

These are the things that I'm most grateful for today. I am proud and honored to look across the Chamber into the eyes of my friend, SAM JOHNSON, and to assure him that he is one of the reasons why, when I get up in the morning, the first two things I do are to thank God for my life, and veterans for my way of life.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the Republican whip, Mr. BLUNT, the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, for his work to bring this bill to the floor, and for the moments the entire House is taking to recognize those who have sacrificed for us and the homecoming 35 years ago of our good friend, SAM

JOHNSON, and others. Those who have served in this way have served with particular challenges to their courage and have seen their faith and their families' challenged as well.

Recently in another ceremony in this building reflecting on the Holocaust, the speaker at that ceremony, the White House chief of staff, mentioned his father, a prisoner in another war, World War II, who all the time he was in a prison camp in Germany refused to take off the dog tag symbol that identified him as a Jew.

We all know that story of our colleague in the Senate who saw the guard draw a symbol of a cross on the ground as he had released him from the particular painful way he had been bound to be left overnight and then quickly erased that symbol of his faith.

We've read, many of us, our friend SAM's story about not only his challenge and his strength and faith, but also how his own family didn't know for months and months whether he was alive or dead, and that was a story that was all too frequent among our heroes who served us and served in this capacity. They kept the faith, they honored their country.

The stories go on and on and on about the flag that was found and destroyed and the man who had pieced that flag together in a Vietnamese prison camp was brutally beaten, and as soon as he could regain enough strength and consciousness, he began to get little pieces of cloth and put a flag back together again. That kind of service, that kind of honor, that kind of courage, that kind of patriotism is what we recognize today; and particularly those of us who serve with SAM JOHNSON get to recognize it every day as we see him come courageously to the floor serving his country again.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close after my colleague has yielded back his time.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. I would like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) 2 minutes.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in strong support of this resolution recognizing the courage and sacrifice of American military personnel held prisoner during the Vietnam conflict, and I would like to thank those folks for their extraordinary bravery, their valor, and their commitment to our Nation. We will be eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

I would also like to highlight the courage and the sacrifice of our own Representative SAM JOHNSON of Texas who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for 7 years. In the midst of our Nation's war against global terrorism, it's especially fitting that we now take the time to remember and honor our prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict.

Not all of those who were captured returned to freedom in what was called

Operation Homecoming some 35 years ago. Those events, watched by millions of Americans, helped focus the Nation on the ordeal endured by those proud warriors, the prisoners of war, who were routinely subject to brutal mistreatment including beatings, torture, starvation, and the denial of medical attention and outside information. Since the return of these Vietnam-era prisoners of war, America has learned much more about how remarkably special, smart, and strong these men were.

The stories of their courage, heroism, endurance, and exemplary service inspires us all, and we must never forget their sacrifices.

One of those remarkable heroes who came home 35 years ago is our own SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Shot down in 1966, he was a prisoner of war for 7 years. Labeled by the enemy as a die-hard resister, he suffered tremendously and spent more than half his time in solitary confinement. That same indomitable spirit and commitment to serve our Nation continues today where he is an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, it is only right that we take time to honor men like SAM JOHNSON and the other prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict, and I urge all Americans to do so, not forgetting that more than 1,700 American military personnel remain unaccounted for today.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like now to recognize the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs committee, Mr. BUYER, for 2 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, the ranking member. Thank you for bringing this today to the floor.

As all of us get to know SAM, and we see him daily, SAM's voice gives meaning to many who were held as prisoner and allows us to have a deeper appreciation of what it means to lose your liberty. And what SAM JOHNSON has been able to teach all of us is that someone may take away your freedom, someone may beat you and torture you, but they can never touch your character. And what SAM teaches us daily is it is about the power of the individual, and it comes from your character and it comes from who you are morally and spiritually as a person. It is about who you are with your values and your virtues that defines human dignity. When you define that and you're comfortable about yourself, it doesn't matter what someone ever does to you.

When you think about and you read the book on SAM JOHNSON's life, you have a much deeper understanding of what this man went through, but he was able to endure because he was comfortable with who he was as a person.

Now, what SAM does, and he is so humble, is that he then takes that and teaches all of us not only about what they went through, but how each of us, as Americans, should rise to understand each other with greater dignity.

With that, SAM, I think this is so fitting that we honor you today. I know that you feel uncomfortable about doing that. But you are able to give great voice to a lot of your comrades, many who also never came home. And it is not just for those from the Vietnam war; when you speak, you give voice to anyone who was a prisoner of war.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. HUNTER. Thank you, Mr. BUYER, for your very eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, at this point we have one speaker remaining, and that's the man from Texas who stiffens our spine, who gives us resolution when we start to lose our resolve in this House of Representatives, who reminds us that freedom isn't free and that we achieve peace through strength.

I would like to yield the balance of our time to SAM JOHNSON, the gentleman from Texas.

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Republican Leader BOEHNER for his efforts to recognize the prisoners of war in Vietnam and those of us who are marking 35 years of freedom.

As a former prisoner of war for nearly 7 years, more than half of that time in solitary confinement, I find great comfort that Americans support our troops 110 percent. Trust me when I say it makes a tremendous difference to return to your country with a warm welcome and homecoming party versus people spitting on you or worse. Thankfully, America does not have hundreds of men and women held captive as prisoners of war like Vietnam. For this, I can only say, "Praise the Lord."

You know, celebrating a milestone of liberty like 35 years of freedom really puts life in perspective. I have thought about what my battered body felt like before the years of endless torture and extreme starvation, and I thank my loyal wife and family for sticking by me when I was gone.

I also recall the high-caliber Americans held captive with me in Vietnam. By Christmas 1970, my captors ended my solitary confinement after 3½ years and placed me in a huge room full of American heroes, the Hanoi Hilton, now known as the "Incredible Room Seven." The roster of Room Seven included 47 great Americans who spent a combined 108,116 days in captivity. That translates into just under 300 man hours gone. As for me, I spent just under 2,500 days as a POW, and you can Google "Incredible Room Seven" to learn about the amazing list of war heroes I have the honor of calling friends, one of whom is JOHN MCCAIN.

While held in captivity, most of us agreed that when, not if, we returned home to America, we would quit complaining about the government and do

something about it. Some of us ran for office. I served in the Texas State House and now in the U.S. Congress. Jeremiah Denton, who blinked the letters "t-o-r-t-u-r-e" in Morse code while reading a prepared message from the enemy into a video camera, became a U.S. Senator from Alabama. JOHN MCCAIN served in the House and then in the Senate. Clearly, the thread of public service in Room Seven extended well beyond the military code of conduct.

I mention my 7 years in captivity for another reason as well. Today, for just about the last 7 years, our troops and their families have put their lives on the line, and many times on hold, to defend the freedom of this great Nation. The Nation has troops waging two different battles in two separate remote parts of the world, and our servicemen and women continue to stand up and be counted. Our troops have done an exceptional job. We all hope and pray they come home soon and safely when the time is right.

I would like to close today by dedicating this statement to a dear friend of mine who did not make it home from captivity, Ron Storz. The enemy held me in solitary confinement in a place we POWs named Alcatraz. There were 11 of us held alone in small 3-foot by 8-foot cells, each one adjacent to another. Being the ingenious American servicemen we were, we could communicate with our fellow POWs by tapping on the walls.

Of the 11 of us held in solitary cells, only 10 made it home. The North Vietnamese killed my friend Ron Storz, an Air Force captain, after he rebelled and went on a hunger strike to protest our harsh conditions. Ron Storz carried the banner of valor and heroism. This resolution includes him, too, and it includes all Americans.

All I want to say is God bless America, and today I salute all ex-POWs. Thank you for bringing this measure to the floor. I salute you.

□ 1145

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. We have no more speakers and would yield back the balance of our time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say what an honor it is for me to serve with a great American, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, here in the House, and I thank God, as my colleagues do as well, that he is here to share with us his extraordinary experiences and to remind us of individuals like himself who serve this country with such honor and valor.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my wholehearted support of honoring members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and to ask for a full accounting of those great Americans still listed as missing in action.

The hardship bestowed upon our men and women in the Vietnam war prison camps is

well documented. I have two dear friends who spent years as prisoners of war in Vietnam. One is a constituent of mine named Digger O'Dell who spent more than 5 years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. The other, my colleague in the House, Congressman SAM JOHNSON.

Their bravery, their commitment to our nation and their desire to fight for the freedom of every individual is unquestionable. I rise today in tribute to the service and sacrifice of Digger O'Dell, SAM JOHNSON, and that of their fellow POWs whose bravery under incredible circumstances did great honor to America.

Additionally, we can never forget the 1,729 members of our Armed Forces that remain unaccounted for from this conflict. This is unacceptable to me. This number represents families, loved ones, and comrades who have been left wondering about their fate for the past 30 plus years.

Those families that still await word of the fate of their loved ones deserve the sense of closure this information would bring. I feel that it is our duty as Members of Congress to at the very least work to provide them the opportunity for that closure.

My district is home to thousands of veterans of the Vietnam war and my husband is a member of one of the largest chapter of Vietnam Vets in the Nation. Each time I see a veteran of that conflict I say "Welcome Home" because too many were not welcomed properly when they returned from Vietnam.

That "Welcome Home" means even more to those who spent time in captivity and endured unspeakable abuses because upon their release they returned to the loving embrace of family and friends. And they did so with their honor intact and love of country strengthened.

For those who never returned and whose fate is unknown, we must never stop in our effort to leave no one behind.

I urge you as my friends and colleagues to join me in honoring the courage and sacrifice of all those members of our Armed Services who valiantly served our great Nation in Vietnam. And to every Vietnam Veteran—Welcome Home.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 986, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1054)

honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1054

Whereas women have historically been an important part of all United States war efforts, voluntarily serving in every military conflict in United States history since the Revolutionary War;

Whereas 34,000 women served in World War I, 400,000 served in World War II, 120,000 served in the Korean War, over 7,000 served in the Vietnam War, and more than 41,000 served in the first Gulf War;

Whereas more than 185,000 women have been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other missions since 2001;

Whereas over 350 service women have given their lives for our Nation in combat zones since World War I, and more than 85 have been held as prisoners of war;

Whereas over 350,000 women serving in the Armed Forces make up approximately 15 percent of active duty personnel, 15 percent of Reserves, and 17 percent of the National Guard;

Whereas women are now playing an increasingly important role in America's military forces; and

Whereas the women of America's military, past and present, have served their nation in times of peace and war, at great personal sacrifice for both themselves and their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors and recognizes the service and achievements of current and former female members of the Armed Forces;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to recognize the service and achievements of women in the military and female veterans on Memorial Day;

(3) encourages all people in the United States to learn about the history of service and achievements of women in the military; and

(4) supports groups that raise awareness about the service and achievements of women in the military and female veterans through exhibitions, museums, statues, and other programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every time I visit military installations, at home and abroad, I'm constantly impressed by the tremendous job our servicemembers are doing, and I'm particularly impressed by our